

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 9-14, 16, and 17 are presently active in this case. The present amendment amends Claims 7, 9, and 11 and cancels Claims 8, 15, and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer. As the claims are amended to include the subject matter from canceled Claims 8, 15, and 18, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 15 and 18 were objected to, but indicated as including allowable subject matter; Claim 11 was objected to; Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 7, 11-13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Takei et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,958,614, hereinafter “Takei”); Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takei in view of Hinsenkamp (DE 100 18 067 A1); and Claims 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takei in view of Cownden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,316,134, hereinafter “Cownden”).

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claim 7 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 15 and intervening Claim 8. Additionally, Claim 11 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 18. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that independent Claims 7 and 11, and all claims dependent thereon, be allowed.

In response to the objection to Claim 11, Claim 11 is amended as suggested by the Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 11 be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is noted that amended Claim 7 recites “a turbine.” Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejections of Claims 7-14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), in view of the amendments to Claims 7 and 11 discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are moot.

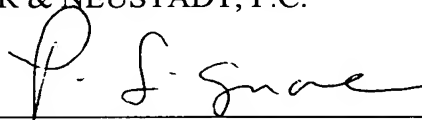
This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 which, after final rejection, permits entering of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment amends Claims 7 and 11 to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 8, 15, and 18, cancels Claims 8, 15, and 18, and amends Claim 11 to comply with the requirements of form expressed in the Office Action dated October 11, 2007. Therefore, this amendment only includes subject matter which was earlier presented. Thus, no new matter has been added, and this amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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